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## City rejects Northlands proposal

VISION 2020

**Mayor says city  
needs to 'reset'  
plan for site**

 **Ryan  
Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

A dramatic overhaul proposed for Rexall Place, the Expo Centre and the rest of the Northlands site will not solve the society's financial woes and shouldn't be supported, according to a city report released Wednesday.

City council asked administration to study the plan and report back, and they found it didn't meet market demands.

In response to the loss of the Oilers and the downtown arena, Northlands came up with Vision 2020 earlier this year. It called for a six-ice-sheet arena in Rexall

Place, a new concert space in the Expo Centre and an outdoor festival site.

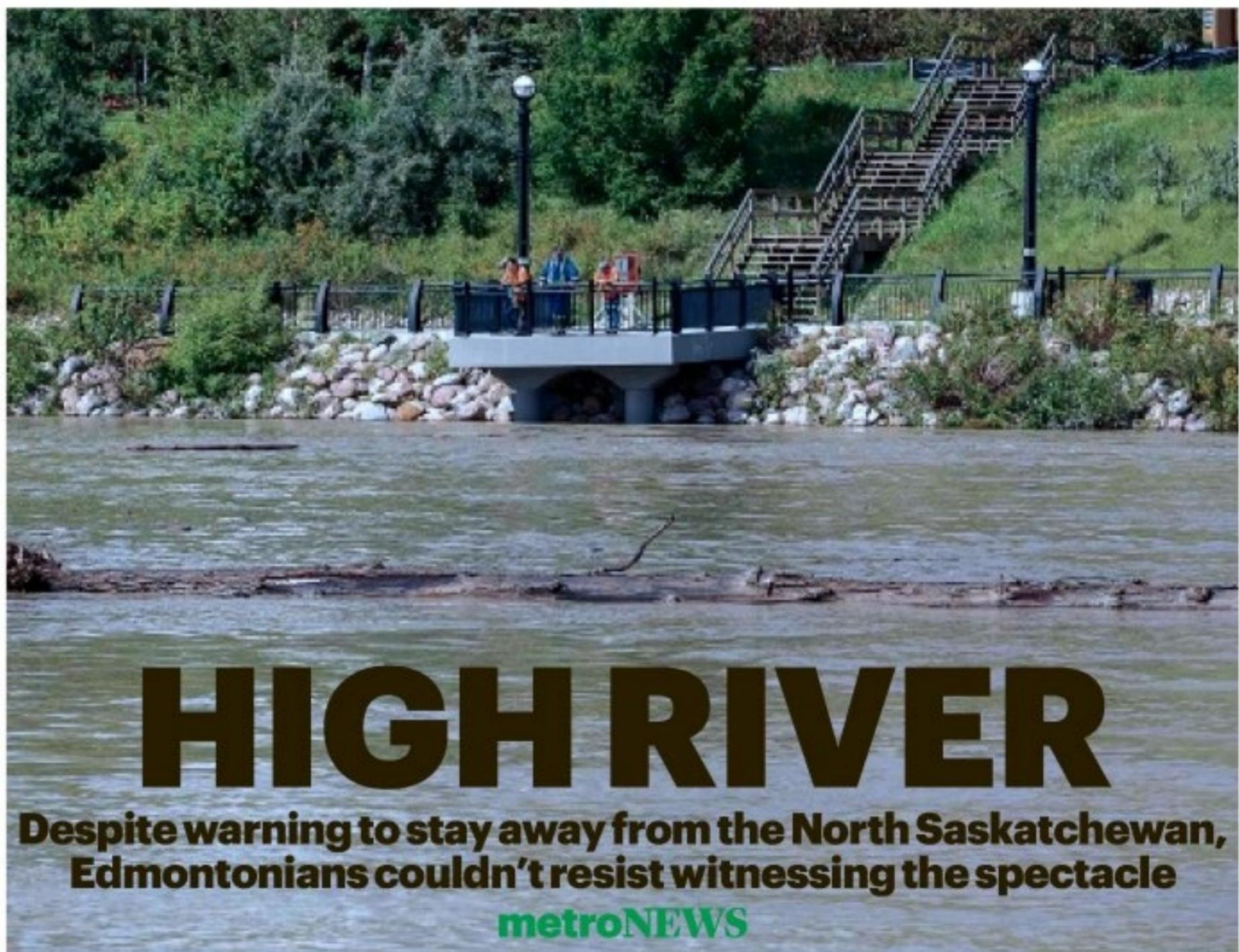
The city review has found there just wasn't enough demand for the new facilities. Mayor Don Iveson said the report outlines that while there needs to be a new plan for the site, this one isn't it.

"We must be realistic," he said. "If everything hinges on Vision 2020 then we need a reset."

Iveson said despite the review's recommendations he wants to keep working on the arena proposal, but doesn't see the festival site and the Expo Centre working.

Northlands CEO Tim Reid said the city's conclusions are not off base. "I don't necessarily agree with all of the assumptions of their consultants, but ultimately I think the documents are fair and in the best interest of a city-wide discussion."

**More coverage, see page 8**



## HIGH RIVER

**Despite warning to stay away from the North Saskatchewan,  
Edmontonians couldn't resist witnessing the spectacle**

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KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

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POWER CONTRACTS

## Notley fires back in lawsuit

Premier Rachel Notley says the high-stakes court fight over millions — if not billions — of dollars in power contracts is about protecting consumers against entitled power companies seeking “a free ride.”

Notley made her first comments about the dispute Wednesday in a speech to Unifor union members at their convention in Ottawa.

“When a group of private companies decided to try to offload onto the people of Alberta up to \$2 billion in losses due to decisions that they made under a privatized system that they asked for, they didn’t get the free ride they would have gotten if the Conservatives were still in government,” Notley said to applause.

“Instead, they got themselves a lawsuit.”

Notley’s government launched the lawsuit on July 25 over power purchase arrangements, better known as PPAs.

The PPAs form the spine of a deregulated electricity system created under the former Progressive Conservative government of Ralph Klein in 2000 to boost competition and bring in lower prices.

Under the system, power companies buy electricity from generators at auction via the PPAs, then re-sell it to the public with the promise that no matter what happens the generators get a reasonable rate of return.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Local Muslim women say burkini is ‘liberating’

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

## Conservative swimsuits gain popularity in Edmonton



**Alex Boyd**

Metro | Edmonton

As pictures spread online of French police forcing a woman to remove her clothing because of a burkini ban, Muslim women in Edmonton say conservative swimsuits are growing in popularity in the city — and that’s a good thing.

“Being in control of my body and how much I want to expose and how people view me is incredibly liberating,” said Mona Ismaeil, owner of Edmonton-based online store Modern Hejab.

“I feel there are bigger things in the world to worry about,” she said. “It’s frustrating that’s what they’re going after.”

French police forced the woman to remove items of clothing as she sat on a beach Tuesday. Several towns have banned the full-length swimsuit dubbed the burkini.

Ismaeil doesn’t sell swimwear in her store, but said there’s a wide range of suits available online, and most of

her Muslim friends in the city now own one. They usually consist of a long shirt, pants and hijab all made out of swimsuit material.

Nakita Valerio goes swimming regularly in Edmonton wearing a full-length track suit and a sport hijab. She’s frustrated with arguments like French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who recently said the hijab symbolized the “enslavement of women.”

“I consider myself a Muslim feminist,” she said. She adds that the vast majority of women who cover choose it for themselves, and adds that if women are oppressed, the ban just limits their ability to be in public.

“It diminishes the rights of women, it diminishes their right to choose how they clothe their bodies,” she said.

The city’s list of acceptable apparel for public pools includes the burkini as an example of acceptable alternative swimwear, and aquatic program co-ordinator Debi Currie said they’ve seen an uptick in the number of people sporting full-length suits.

The city has offered female-only swims, lessons and aqua-fit classes at the Eastglenn pool for about a decade, which she said have grown particularly popular with the Muslim community in the last three or four years.

“The city is committed to



**Nakita Valerio** swims regularly in conservative swimwear and hasn’t had an issue in Edmonton, other than the odd question. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

creating an inclusive environment and we think it’s important we do that for female-only,” she said.

Both Ismaeil and Valerio say

they’ve never had an issue at Edmonton pools, but Valerio adds it’s a concern any time anti-Muslim sentiments get an international platform.

“My real concern is how we can we support French Muslim women, or women who just want to cover up at the beach in general.”



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# Trash talk turns to technology

## SERVICES

## City council puts out feelers on robotic garbage pickup

**Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

The city will soon ask residents whether they're interested in automated garbage pickup or not, but the real question may be: how soon do you want it?

City councillors got an update Wednesday on the city's review of automated garbage pickup, which requires standardized carts for residents and allows collectors to use a robotic arm to tip the cart into the truck.

The city will ask residents for their views on the idea next spring, but even if residents are opposed the change is likely coming eventually.

Chris Ward, manager of utility services, said the industry is moving towards automation and the city can only hold out so long.

"Eventually, you're not going to be able to get a manual collection garbage truck or we're not going to get contractors bidding on the project," he said.



A number of municipalities have replaced human garbage collectors with automated pickup systems. METRO

"The question on automation is, is now the time to go forward or is it later?"

Many communities across North America have made the shift, because the automated trucks require less staff to

operate and are less physical taxing. According to the city, the average collector lifts the equivalent of 27 Smart Cars per day on a route.

Coun. Ben Henderson said

he is not going to presume what citizens want and is glad the city is consulting, but wants to see the city embrace automated collection.

"I would hope we do. I think it makes sense," he said.

He said there is a lot to gain on the city's side, but residents will also likely get tidier garbage containers and possibly fewer animals.

"I have never heard any city say, 'We wish we hadn't done it.'"

## DEFICIT Patience needed: Notley

Premier Rachel Notley is urging patience as her government grapples with a budget deficit projected to hit almost \$11 billion this year.

While the situation is bad, it would have been far worse if her NDP party had lost the last election to the Progressive Conservatives, Notley said in a spirited speech to Unifor union members at their convention in Ottawa on Wednesday.

"Our province, we know, cannot run deficits indefinitely," Notley said. "We know that. We're very conscious of that."

"But we can manage our fiscal challenges patiently and wisely and carefully," she said. "We can set a course to return to fiscal balance as our economy recovers."

She said Albertans are on side with her plan.

"As more and more Canadians are learning every day, austerity just makes things worse."

Alberta is racking up multibillion-dollar deficits as it wrestles with persistent low oil prices that have taken great bites out of the bottom line of the resource-rich province.

The downside has been multiple credit downgrades, a debt that will surpass \$30 billion this year and is forecast to reach \$58 billion before the end of the decade. Debt-servicing costs this year will surpass \$1 billion.

Notley said her government is doing what it promised to do and reiterated that if the Tories had won, things would be very different.

"Their idea was that if you fire thousands of teachers, teachers aides, school support workers, nurses, nurses aides and people that work in the hospitals that somehow the price of oil would go back up," she said.

## FLOODING

## Councillor calls for better storm preparedness

Coun. Michael Walters said the city can't accept flooded Whitemud underpasses anytime Edmonton sees a major storm.

The freeway flooded several times this summer, resulting in several cars stuck in high water after major rainfalls.

City drainage officials have

said fixing the problem could be very expensive and that some flooding was expected as part of the design.

Walters said they need to take a deeper look at the problem.

"It's designed to the one-in-five-year storm and anything beyond that it's designed to flood.

While that may have been OK in the '80s and '90s when this was all built, it's not OK today," he said. "I am not OK with that."

In a motion at council's utility committee Wednesday, Walters asked for a review of risks for Whitemud underpasses as well as those on the Yellowhead, Cap-

lano Freeway and 170th Street.

He also wants a review of possible options to address the issues or at least develop better public warnings.

"Somebody could push a button when we see the rain coming and turn on a flashing sign that says don't go on the Whitemud,"

he said. "It's about preventing people from getting trapped."

Walters said looking at issues like this recognizes that the freak heavy downpours may be much more common now.

"It's also a part of our broader look at climate-change adaptation." RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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# Fast, rising river feeds local curiosity

WARNING

**An overturned boat was found but no people were involved**

**Kevin Maimann**  
Metro | Edmonton

The rising North Saskatchewan River is sparking more curiosity than caution in some.

Officials warned Edmontonians to stay away from the river valley as the water line rose three metres from Tuesday to Wednesday afternoon, but a handful of people couldn't resist coming out to witness the spectacle.

"I usually paddleboard in the river, so I was kind of curious as to what an extra three to four metres of water would be like and what it would do to the currents," said Greg Crick, who guessed the water was flowing



**Greg Crick came down to watch the rising river Wednesday afternoon, despite official warnings.** KEVIN TUONG / FOR METRO

about four times faster than usual. "It's not something you see every day."

Trees and other debris cruised down the river Wednesday afternoon. An overturned aluminum

boat was found according to Edmonton Fire Rescue, but no people were involved.

Sandi Connell came down after hearing the warnings.

"I'm astounded by all the wood, the trees coming down," she said.

"It's definitely high and holy crap is it muddy."

The river was expected to rise another metre by the end of Wednesday before cresting.

The city closed four sections of low-lying river valley trails as it crept up, and closed two storm water outfalls in the Rosedale community.

Utility services branch manager Chris Ward said the water would have to rise at least an additional metre-and-a-half beyond what was predicted before reaching any homes.

He reiterated that residents should steer clear of the river.

"That's really a concern for public safety," Ward said.

"The speed of the river and the rate of flow will wash you in there so quickly. Just stay away."

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CANNABIS PRODUCTION

## 'Most advanced' facility coming

Alberta could soon be home to a world-leading medical marijuana production facility.

Aurora Cannabis, the only licensed producer in the province, is planning to build a new space that can grow 10 times more marijuana than its current facility, which is located in a rural area outside of Calgary.

"The plan that we put together is enormously high tech and extremely automated," said the company's senior vice-president Cam Battley.

"What we're aiming for here is to have the world's most advanced cannabis production facility."

The location of the new 600,000-square-foot space is still under wraps.

It is slated for completion sometime in 2018, when it will have the capacity to produce 70,000 kilograms of product.

Battley said the "hybrid

greenhouse" will use supplemental lighting as well as natural lighting to grow through all four seasons.

The Vancouver-based company has been selling its product since January, and Battley said Alberta is the ideal province for expansion due to its low taxes and power prices, as well as its weather.

"Alberta has extremely good climate for a hybrid greenhouse, with a lot of sunny days and a reasonably dry climate," he said.

Aurora is growing in response to "exploding" demand for medical cannabis — it's increasing by about 10 per cent every month — as well as a promise from the federal government to introduce legislation in the spring that will legalize consumer use.

"We need to be ready for it," Battley said.

KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

**Alberta has extremely good climate for a hybrid greenhouse, with a lot of sunny days and a reasonably dry climate.** Cam Battley

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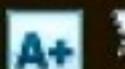
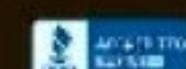
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# Fear over Northlands' future

## BUSINESS

## City sees the arena, concert space proposal as flawed

 **Ryan Tumilty**  
Metro | Edmonton

Alberta Avenue businesses want to maintain the foot traffic and vitality around Northlands, even if some of the current big draws don't have a future.

Joachim Holtz, executive director of the Alberta Avenue Business Association, said regardless of what happens with Rexall Place or the other elements at the site, the city needs to come up with a plan to keep the crowds coming.

"We're strong in the belief that we need to have economic vitality on that end of the city," he said.

A city report poured cold water Wednesday on a proposal from Northlands that would have converted Rexall Place into a new six-sheet ice arena, added a concert space inside the Expo Centre and torn down the race track to make way for an outdoor festival site.

The city's review found there was not sufficient market demand for those projects and that moving ahead on them could be more expensive than Northlands projected.

Holtz said the key is not to let the site lay dormant.

"If the site sits there we're regressing and we're not progressing," he said.

Coun. Tony Caterina, who represents the area, said he doesn't believe the city will allow Northlands to sit empty.

"That is my biggest fear

that the site be left alone to grow weeds. That's the worst thing for the city of Edmonton and the communities around there," he said.

He said while the city may have rejected parts of this proposal they can look at other ideas.

"It's not an all or nothing. It's a proposal conceptual that no one else had," he said.

Mayor Don Iveson said despite the negative report he would like to keep exploring converting Rexall Place, because he believes Edmontonians value the building.

"This building tugs on their heartstrings they want to find a way to repurpose it for amateur sport," he said.

Northlands CEO Tim Reid said he is glad people are willing to come to the table and work on the problem. He said while horse racing and the Expo Centre were issues before, the linchpin was losing concerts to the downtown arena.

"It is fairly simple math. If we didn't lose Rexall Place even with the declining industries we have at Rexall Place, we would be viable," he said.

Northlands owes \$48 million to the city for the Expo Centre and asked the city to consider forgiving that debt. Iveson said he doesn't believe there is an appetite to write that off.

If Northlands defaults on its loan the site would be returned to the city.

He said there were many issues facing Northlands and he doesn't believe the downtown arena is the only culprit in creating the problem.

"More things have shifted in the concert business than simply where the majority of the concerts will go," he said. "This has hastened a conversation that I believe would have happened anyways."



The city's review found there may not be enough demand for six sheets of ice in North Edmonton as Northlands proposes, and that ideally the rinks would be spread out further in the city. CONTRIBUTED



Northlands wanted to convert Hall D into a concert venue of 5,000 seats, but the city's review found there likely isn't that much demand for a space that big in Edmonton. CONTRIBUTED



Northlands hoped to raze the current race track, which is forecast to begin losing money, and replace it with a festival site. CONTRIBUTED

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# Light rail down again

TRANSIT

## LRT fails commuters for second morning rush

**Sanam Islam**  
For Metro | Edmonton

For the second day in a row, LRT users dealt with lineups and frustration because of service disruptions during the morning rush hour.

"If I had the LRT, I'd be able to get to work much faster right now. The contingency buses are kind of slow with traffic, and I'll likely be late to work," said Tese Cardinal, a commuter waiting for a bus at Century Park station.

"If the trains keep going down, I'll have to wake up earlier and take a bus to work instead of relying on them."

At 7:20 a.m. Wednesday, a strap holding an overhead wire broke, leading to the mechanical failure of a train at Southgate station, said Jen-



**Light rail passengers lined up for replacement shuttle buses after a service disruption**  
Wednesday. SANAM ISLAM/FOR METRO

nifer Laraway, a spokesperson for Edmonton Transit.

"It causes a lot of damage, and a series of safety precautions come into place," she said.

All trains running to and

from Century Park, Southgate and South Campus stations were stopped, traffic gates were closed and shuttle buses were called to take commuters to stations with service.

Crews were dispatched to

manually fix the problem, with service restored close to noon.

On Tuesday, the Metro line lost power for about an hour starting at about 7 a.m. due to a zone controller failure,

**If the trains keep going down, I'll have to wake up earlier and take a bus to work.**

Tese Cardinal

Laraway said.

"It was a rare occurrence ... it's an inconvenience, but it's a short amount of time to get the train back up and running for that sort of disruption.

"It's unfortunate that both service disruptions happened during peak morning service," she added.

To prevent future problems, Wednesday's repair crews will be checking all the straps in the affected zone and double-checking all trains to ensure there is no damage, Laraway said.

"I hope people can appreciate where we're coming from and that we're doing our best. We apologize for the inconvenience caused," Laraway said.

EAST EDMONTON

## One dead after fire at home

One person died in an east Edmonton house fire Tuesday.

Edmonton Fire Rescue was called to 64 Street and 109B Avenue at 10:31 a.m. that day, to a report of smoke coming from a home.

Firefighters arrived within five minutes to find a "fully involved" fire, but struggled to get access inside the home due to "blocked pathways," according to a release.

"We are very saddened there was one fatality yesterday," fire Chief Ken Block said in the same release. "According to our internal policies, that is all the information we can provide at this time. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of the victim."

The fire was under control by 11:24 a.m. and was out by 12:57 p.m.

Investigators were on scene Wednesday and still working to determine the cause of the fire.

Damages are estimated at \$60,000. METRO

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# Bella Bella awaits royals

## FIRST NATIONS

## Duke, duchess to tour remote community

**David P. Ball**  
Metro | Vancouver

The quiet coastal Heiltsuk community of Bella Bella is home to roughly 1,600 people, but it's set to get a whole lot busier over the next month as it readies to host the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The British royal family members — Prince William, Kate Middleton and their two children Prince George and Princess Charlotte — will visit the remote village on Sept. 26 as part of their week-long Canadian tour announced this week.

Harvey Humchitt is a Heiltsuk hereditary chief and the First Nation's research coordinator in its resource management department.

He said the high-profile visitors will likely take in a flight over the surrounding wilderness, and visit Bella Bella's independ-



Members of Heiltsuk First Nation, in Bella Bella, B.C., believe the royal family's Sept. 26 visit will benefit their tourism sector and long-term reconciliation. COURTESY HEILTSUK TRIBAL COUNCIL/FACEBOOK

ent community school, which for decades has been an example of Heiltsuk "control over our own education."

On Tuesday, Humchitt de-

scribed the mood in the community following the news of the upcoming tour as "excited" because — despite visits from governors general, celebrities

and politicians — it's the first visit from royalty.

"We've never really had any royal visitors in Bella Bella," he told Metro in a phone interview.

"A lot of our people believe this happens once in a lifetime."

One of the key roles of the traditional hereditary chiefs, he explained, is to protect the Heiltsuk people's lands. So the royal visit from Britain's own hereditary leadership is a chance to showcase the community's success defending its territories from industrial exploitation, oil tankers associated with the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, as well as opposing Grizzly bear trophy hunting.

"We know there has to be some development in our territories, but we try to do it in a sustainable fashion. We've worked really hard to manage and control harvesting of logs in a sustainable way and the oceans clear of fish farms."

Marilyn Slett, who is the elected Chief Councillor of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council, told Metro the details and logistics of the visit are still being worked out.

But key elements will include an invitation to walk in part of the "largest temperate rainforest left in the world" — known as the Great Bear Rainforest — and see the locally managed salmon hatchery.

## RIDESHARING The 'Peg wants to get Uber

**Braeden Jones**  
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg may be the city that Uber forgot. But Jay Hall is bound and determined to remind the company that plenty of people are ready and waiting to ride.

Hall has started a petition that aims to bait the hook for ride-sharing companies to break into the market. It calls on Premier Brian Pallister and Mayor Brian Bowman to "get Uber or Uber-like regulations for Manitoba's taxis."

The company's entry into other cities has sparked debate around the world. But, as far as Hall is concerned, many Winnipeggers are ready to roll out the welcome mat.

People are continually posting stories about negative experiences with taxis, said Hall, who runs a Facebook page called The Winnipeg. Even more have been posted on his petition page — which has more than 350 signatures — with issues raging from safety concerns to rude drivers.

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# Grits get set for fall

## POLITICS

## Economy, middle-class, bonding on retreat agenda

Liberal MPs began catching up on vacation stories and other tales from outside the political bubble Wednesday evening as they began arriving for a summer retreat to get ready for a year of tough choices as the government figures out how to deliver on its long list of promises.

"It's good for all of us to get together, talk about what issues are coming up in our constituencies, so we can filter it in to the fall agenda."

Veterans Affairs Minister Kent Hehr said as he greeted his Liberal caucus colleagues in the lobby of a hotel in Saguenay, Que., about 210 kilometres north of Quebec City.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is scheduled to arrive here Thursday morning, when the meetings begin in earnest, where he will address the national caucus after they have gathered in smaller regional groups.

The Liberals are being encouraged to spend their free time in the area, with a community event promising a chance for local residents to mingle with Trudeau and the MPs scheduled for Thursday evening.

### EXPENSES

The political pressure is mounting on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to outline specific measures to control spending among his cabinet ministers, now that two of them find their own practices under the microscope.

New Democrat caucus chair Charlie Angus and ethics critic Alexandre Boulerice have written to the prime minister about "questionable expenses" that they say may breach Trudeau's own standards of conduct when it comes to public funds.

The details of what will take precedence on the fall legislative agenda have yet to be shared, but Liberal MPs headed into two days of closed-door meetings said they hope for substantial discussions on everything from electoral reform to a review of anti-terror legislation.

The summer caucus meeting comes on the heels of a cabinet retreat in Sudbury, Ont., where the stagnant economy provided the context for a message that the second year in power will require some patience and acceptance of the fact that the government cannot please everyone all of the time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greets members of a Syrian refugee family during Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## TOLERANCE

## New guide aims to help schools understand, fight Islamophobia

Last spring, school boards grappled with the practical issues that came with welcoming thousands of new Syrian students: finding them desks, pencils, books.

But as they gear up for this school year, Muslim organizations hope they can turn their attention to another problem: warding off the dirty looks — and worse — that many Muslim students say they get at school.

Schools have wrestled with Islamophobia since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 but there was never intense educator interest in combating the problem, said

Amira Elghawaby, communications director for the National Council of Canadian Muslims.

That's changed, she said.

"The previous federal election where Islam and Muslims were at the forefront for all the wrong reasons, combined with the arrival of Syrian refugees, suddenly this is on people's radars," she said.

As upwards of 25,000 Syrians have arrived in Canada since November, her organization has begun fielding far more calls about the issue — ranging from people ranting about refugees seeking to

change Canadian culture to parents panicked about their child experiencing Islamophobia. Teachers, too, were phoning, seeking resources to help them understand the issue and how to respond.

So the NCCM, the Islamic Social Services Association and the Canadian Human Rights Commission have developed a guide for educators to help them understand the impact of the trauma Syrian kids have experienced abroad and also the experience they, and other Muslims, have of Islamophobia here. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## DIVERSITY

## Mounties allowing hijab with uniform



Rebecca Williams  
Metro | Toronto

The RCMP has adopted a new policy that allows female Muslim officers to wear the hijab.

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson, the only officer allowed to approve accommodations regarding faith, made the change that came into effect in an updated uniform policy in January 2016.

The policy includes an "exemption" that allows Muslim officers to wear the hijab, if they so choose, in an effort to increase the diversity on Canada's national police force.

"The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is a progressive and inclusive police service that values and respects persons of all cultural and religious backgrounds," Public Safety spokesman Scott Bardsley said.

In 2015, the RCMP began a recruiting blitz with the objective of increasing the number of visible minorities on the force by 20 per cent. In 2013, the number of officers that self-identified as a minority was just 8.7 per cent.

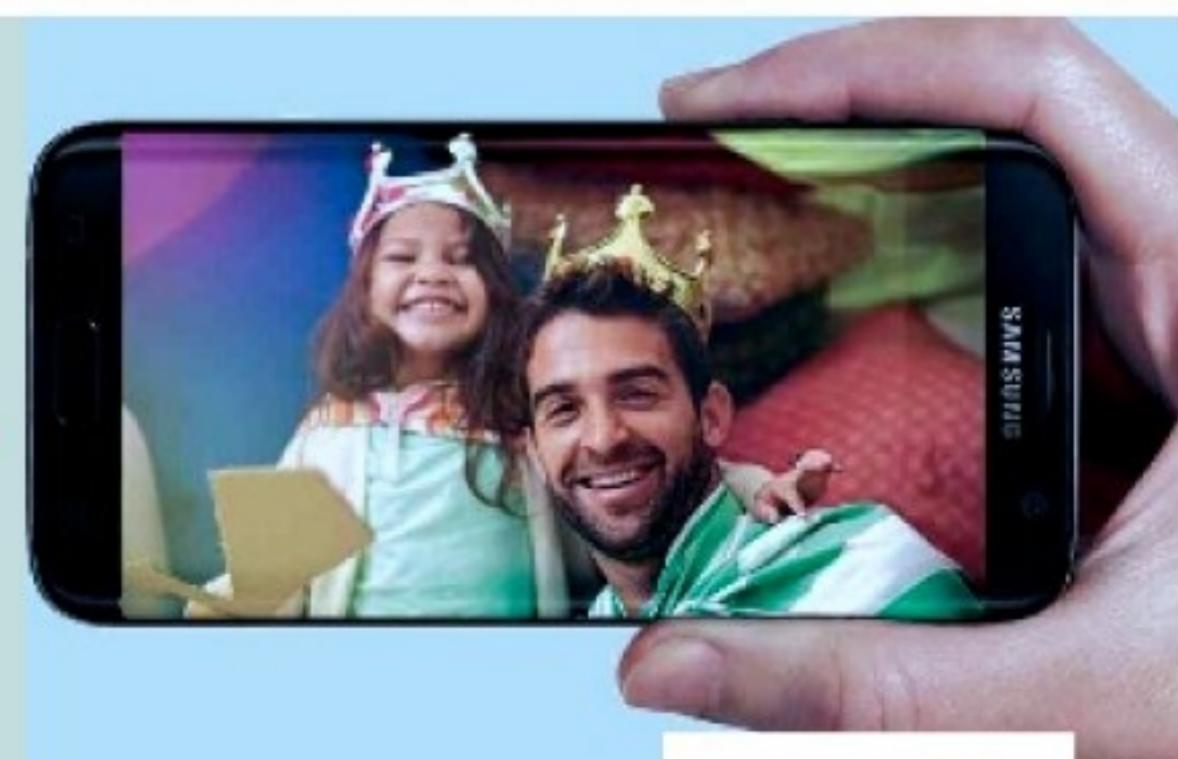
The change in uniform policy comes nearly 26 years after the RCMP approved the turban as part of the uniform for Sikh officers after Baltej Singh Dhillon, an aspiring Mountie, took the force to court in 1990.

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## SPACE

## Proxima b raises hopes for life beyond Earth

Out of the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way and the many multiples beyond it, one, the red dwarf Proxima Centauri, is our closest stellar neighbour.

On Wednesday, a team of astronomers announced they had discovered a planet orbiting Proxima Centauri — and that the planet is rocky, has a mass similar to Earth's and sits in the "goldilocks" zone where liquid water could exist on its surface.

Twenty-five years ago, as-

tronomers had no direct evidence of planets beyond our solar system. Today, an Earth analogue — a primary target in the search for life elsewhere in the universe — is sitting a cosmic stone's throw away. Much remains unknown about the new planet, which has been dubbed Proxima b. Just because water and life could exist doesn't mean they do.

But one fact is certain: The discovery will set off a massive push to analyze the

planet and piece together its history, using current ground-based observatories, soon-to-be-launched spacecraft and maybe — a big maybe — ambitious interstellar missions that entrepreneurs and scientists want to see launched within their lifetimes.

Proxima Centauri is one of three stars in the neighbouring Alpha Centauri system, which has long been a favourite of science fiction.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



An artist's rendering of the planet Proxima b orbiting Proxima Centauri. CONTRIBUTED



Rescuers carry a stretcher after an earthquake in Amatrice, Italy, on Wednesday. ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## 'The town isn't here, anymore'

## NATURAL DISASTER

### Earthquake leaves a trail of devastation in Italian towns

Rescue crews using bulldozers and their bare hands raced to dig out survivors from a strong earthquake that reduced three central Italian towns to rubble Wednesday. The death toll stood at 159, but the number of dead and missing was uncertain given the thousands of vacationers in the area for summer's final days.

Residents wakened before dawn by the tremor emerged from their crumbled homes to find what they described as apocalyptic scenes "like Dante's Inferno," with entire blocks of buildings turned into piles of sand and rock, thick dust choking the air and a putrid smell of gas.

"The town isn't here anymore," said Sergio Pirozzi, the

mayor of the hardest-hit town, Amatrice. "I believe the toll will rise."

The magnitude 6.2 quake struck at 3:36 a.m. and was felt across a broad swath of central Italy, including Rome, where residents woke to a long swaying followed by aftershocks. The tremor shook the Lazio region and Umbria and Le Marche on the Adriatic coast, a highly seismic area that has witnessed major quakes in the past.

Dozens of people were pulled out alive by rescue teams and volunteers that poured in from around Italy.

"She's alive!" two women cheered as they ran up the street in Pescara del Tronto, one of the three hardest-hit hamlets, after a 10-year-old girl was pulled from the rubble 17 hours after the quake struck.

Premier Matteo Renzi visited the zone Wednesday, greeted rescue teams and survivors, and pledged that "No family, no city, no hamlet will be left behind." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## FRANCE

## Burkini talk heating up

A Muslim mother from France says she's going to challenge a fine for wearing a burkini on the Riviera.

The woman — who gave her name only as "Siam" — was ordered to remove her swimsuit by French police officers carrying pepper spray and batons on August

16 in Nice.

Images circulated of at least four police officers standing around the woman just metres from the town's Promenade des Anglais.

More than a dozen French communities along the Riviera have banned the burkini. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM AFP/LE FIGARO

# Mickey, Minnie don Mountie's uniform

DISNEY

## Canadian firm plans to ship 2,000 stuffies by Christmas

Two famous octogenarian recruits are set to join the ranks of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse will don the Mounties' red uniform, although neither has the required Canadian citizenship.

Stuffed animal versions of the Disney characters made by a Toronto toy company, 2 blue ducks, are due to hit the shelves of mom-and-pop, airport and souvenir stores across the country in a few months. The dolls are the fruits of more than two years of negotiations between the toy company, RCMP Foundation and Disney to ensure that the characters and uniform look just right, said Michael Glina, the company's managing director.

The toy company needed special permission from the RCMP Foundation to add a red bow with white polka dots to Minnie's standard-issue hat, Glina said.

"Normally, the hat is iconic. You can't really mess with it, but we needed a distinguishable characteristic between Mickey and Minnie."

The RCMP Foundation, a nationally registered charity, also suggested that the text on



**Mickey and Minnie Mouse** will soon enough join the Mounties' ranks in red uniforms. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mickey and Minnie Mouse's shoulder patch be in both of official languages.

"Everything from the way the hat looks, to the jacket, the boots, the eyes, the nose and mouth — every single thing has been painstakingly reviewed," Glina said.

The Mountie outfit has evolved since the late 19th century into a Canadian symbol. The Norfolk jacket, or red serge, was chosen to mimic British army uniforms. Before the wide-brimmed hat became part of the official uniform in 1902, officers wore pith

helmets or pillbox hats, RCMP Sgt. Penny Hermann said.

There was no particular reason to dress Mickey and Minnie in Mountie garb, but Glina says Canada's 150th anniversary next year is as good an occasion as any.

The contract was a big score for the Toronto company with two full-time employees, Glina and his wife Jenna — plus a "product tester," their 18-month-old son Cooper.

They plan to ship about 2,000 stuffies to Canada before Christmas. The couple considered making the toys domestically, but found that manufacturing them in Canada would be too expensive, Glina said. To bring the retail cost down to around \$30, the dolls are being made in China.

Mickey and Minnie aren't the only kids' icons who have embarked on a side career in Canadian law enforcement. Cookie Monster and Elmo once wore the red serge, but are no longer for sale via the Mountie Shop website.

The licensing fees go toward funding mentorship, nutrition and education programs for youth, said the foundation's president and CEO Hope Henderson. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LENDING

## Credit lines, car loans boost household debt

Canadians' non-mortgage debt loads picked up pace in the second quarter, putting households in an increasingly risky position, an RBC analysis suggested Wednesday.

Balances on consumer loans — including credit cards and lines of credit — grew by 2.6 per cent year-over-year, driven primarily by the continued popularity of lines of credit and auto loans. That was the first uptick in Canadians' appetite for those types of loans in 18 months, RBC economist Laura Cooper said in the report.

Meanwhile, mortgage loan balances were up 6.2 per cent from the same quarter of the prior year as housing prices force many borrowers to take on bigger home loans.

The report begged the question: Can consumer spending continue to drive the economy given that debt loads are so high?

Consumer spending has been the prime driver of the economy since the 2008-09 recession, a trend that has occurred alongside increases in household asset values, as home prices continue to rise.

But total household credit grew by 5.1 per cent in the April to June period, following a quarter in which household net worth advanced at its slowest pace since 2009.

Canadians households now owe a combined \$1.94 trillion. A separate study by TransUnion found the average Canadian owed \$21,580 in non-mortgage debt during the most recent quarter.

The percentage of both mortgage and non-mortgage loans coming from non-bank lenders — which usually come with higher interest rates and lend to riskier borrowers — rose about five per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Canadians owe \$1.65 for every dollar of disposable income they have.

### IN BRIEF

#### RBC 'monitoring' housing

Royal Bank is "closely monitoring" real estate markets in Vancouver and Toronto, where home prices have been climbing at a breakneck pace, CEO David McKay told analysts who wanted to know what contingency plans were in place in the event of a downturn in house prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## CHANTAL HÉBERT ON MANDATORY VOTING



**There are serious political and practical roadblocks in the way of having a different voting system in place in time for the next election. In a deadlock, could mandatory voting offer a fallback avenue to political consensus?**

In the garden of electoral reform, mandatory voting is a low hanging fruit that all parties seem content — for now — to leave on the branch.

That may change if a special parliamentary committee on electoral reform appointed to make recommendations to Justin Trudeau's government ends up deadlocked over the big-ticket item on its agenda.

In the wake of Trudeau's promise to put in place a different voting system in time for the 2019 federal election a cottage industry of electoral experts has sprouted.

The Conservative contention that no move to a different system should take place without its ratification by a national referendum is only contributing to the growth of that industry.

Policy wonks who sometimes have not been heard from since the constitutional debates of the early 1990s are coming out of the woodwork to argue for their pet voting model, or to debate the pros and cons of having a reform ratified by all voters.

So far the public's engagement in this debate has been inversely proportional to the high academic and political interest it is eliciting. Anecdotal evidence suggests

**Parties cater to those who vote. Mandatory voting would expand not only the pool of younger voters but also that of aboriginal Canadians.**

that most voters do not see electoral reform as a defining issue of the Trudeau mandate.

But who knows? The unprecedented combination of a Liberal overture to do away with the first-past-the-post system with the long-held dream of the NDP and the

Green Party for more proportional representation could yet lead to change. Still, the fact is that there are serious political and practical roadblocks in the way of having a different voting system in place in time for the next election.

Settling for a reform along those lines would undoubtedly amount to a climbdown from Trudeau's promise and fall well short of the hopes of the NDP and the Greens.

But the introduction of mandatory voting could bring about transformative change in time for the 2019 election without foreclosing the option of switching to a different voting system at some later point down the road. It would alter the electoral dynamics in a number of quantitative and qualitative ways. Here are some of them:

In a system where voting is not compulsory, ensuring that one's supporters show up to vote is sometimes half

the battle. As often as not, the need to mobilize the base takes precedence over expanding a party's tent. It also provides an incentive for parties to practice dog-whistle politics. Mandatory voting could mitigate that tendency.

And then parties cater to those who vote. Mandatory voting would expand not only the pool of younger voters but also that of aboriginal Canadians whose turnout is well below the national average. In the last election, the Assembly of First Nations identified 51 ridings where the aboriginal vote could influence the outcome.

On paper, mandatory voting tends to favour progressive parties. Throwing more young voters in the mix could spell trouble for the Conservatives. They are often the third or fourth choice of that cohort. Chances are the official opposition is no more a fan of compulsory voting than it is of a different voting system.

But it is always risky to use today's trends to predict the electoral future, and not just because political parties tend to adapt to new dynamics.

On that score, consider that not so long ago many analysts would have seen the introduction of compulsory voting in Quebec as a gift designed to keep on giving for the Parti Québécois. For most of its history, it had tended to be the party of choice of young Quebecers. The younger cohort consistently favoured sovereignty. But in 2016, the reverse would be true.

**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.



Minister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef appears at an electoral reform committee meeting in Ottawa in July. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Places to swim still beachhead for bigotry



**Shree Paradkar**

When Penny Oleksiak made Canadian history this month with a golden victory at Rio, she tied for first place with a 20-year-old who made Olympic history. American Simone Manuel is the first black woman to win an individual Olympic gold in swimming.

Manuel was not just swimming the 100-metre freestyle to win, she was also swimming against a historic legacy of discrimination that kept black people out of swimming pools and public beaches in the U.S., a practice that remained even after schools were desegregated.

Given these historic disincentives, a majority of young African-Americans today can't swim. To them all, Manuel's win is a beacon of possibilities.

That long step to the top of the podium provided good news at a time when, far from turning the tide towards inclusion, places to swim have been exposed as beachheads for bigotry. The place to bare bodies has also laid bare deep-seated racial, cultural and gender-based biases across the Western world. Here are three recent examples.

As reported here in Toronto in July, a hijab-wearing mother was told to leave a public pool if she didn't change her daughter's long shorts and T-shirt, although they were swimwear. (It was deemed OK for her son to wear that.)

In the United States in June, the American Red Cross was forced to apologize after a social media post elicited outrage over a safety poster that labelled white kids "cool" for obeying the rules and kids of

colour "uncool" for disobeying them.

In France, the city of Cannes and 15 towns chose to uphold the nation's traditions of liberté and égalité by imposing more rules around women's clothing. On Aug. 12, it banned the burkini — full body-covering swimsuits — on its beaches. The ban does not apply to full-body covering scuba diving suits. Perhaps there was a safety angle to this?

There isn't. The city's decidedly non-Muslim mayor said burkinis were "the uniform of extremist Islamism, not of the Muslim religion."

Beaches have been on the front lines for racial supremacy, as witnessed during Australia's Cronulla Riots of 2005. That country's largest racial riots were sparked off by in Sydney's beach suburb of Cronulla between Australia's much-vaunted lifeguards (who were white) and a group of Lebanese men.

Going to the seaside can be a time of calm reflection and recreation, so why does stripping down to get into water end up stripping down the notion of inclusiveness?

Through the 20th century, going to a pool meant you could afford to pay for it, going to a beach meant you could afford the time for leisure. Both symbolized privilege and luxury, available to a select few.

Gradually opening pools and beaches to all people diluted that privilege. Modern laws don't allow for direct exclusion, but being offended by what others wear, or how they behave, simply allows the threatened elite to disguise their bigotry.

**Shree Paradkar** is deputy digital editor-multimedia at the Toronto Star.



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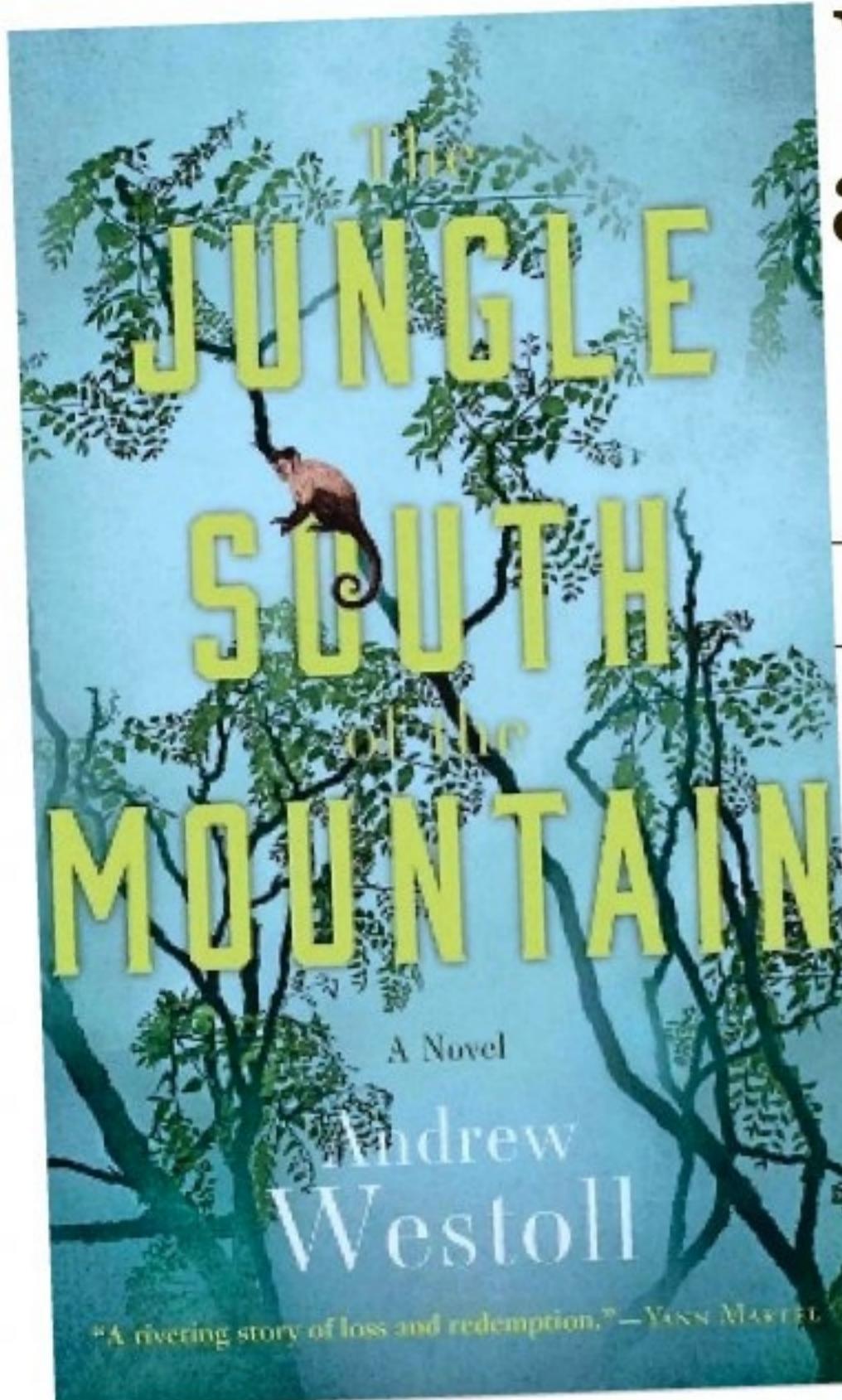
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## Welcome to the jungle, a magical mystery tour

NOVEL

### A real attack on capuchin monkeys impacts tale

Sue Carter  
For Metro Cana

Westoll, who left science to focus on writing, made a name for himself with his travel memoir *The Riverbones*, which captures his time in the Suriname jungle, and the award-winning *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*, a biography of a group of rescued chimpanzees living in Quebec.

But he started his career writing fiction while working on his creative-writing MFA at the University of British Columbia. Like many authors, Westoll has an early "drawer novel" tucked away, but despite his success with non-fiction had always wanted to return to the genre.

The Jungle South of the Mountain follows Stanley, a scientist who has been living for years immersed in a rain forest on the northern coast of South America.

Now, they're at the heart of his first novel, *The Jungle South of the Mountain*, a psychological mystery mixed with magical realism set deep in an unnamed South American country.

"I had my own experiences in the upper Amazon basin, years and years ago," Westoll says. "They just felt like they totally hadn't been put through the sieve."

"A riveting story of loss and redemption." — VASS MATEL

ture of his fellow scientist and wife, Maria. Stanley finds himself embroiled in local politics and the mysterious disappearance of the troop of monkeys they've been tracking.

Stanley came to Westoll one night while wondering what would happen to a scientist who stayed in the jungle too long.

"Once I had that idea, I realized this could be a really amazing way to put my relationship to that part of my life to bed," he says.

He knew Stanley needed some kind of adversary, and so to refresh his memory, the next morning he began looking up videos of capuchin monkeys.

He came across one shaky video taken immediately after a troop of monkeys was attacked by a powerful harpy eagle.

Westoll heard a man's voice exclaim in horror, and realized it was his own. He had totally



Once I had that idea, I realized this could be a really amazing way to put my relationship to that part of my life to bed

Author Andrew Westoll

forgotten shooting the video, and hadn't realized it had been posted online.

"When I heard my voice, it all came rushing back, the power of that moment," he says.

"It's profoundly upsetting when you spend all this time with the monkeys and you've named half of them. You see them come under attack like that and it's troubling. I just knew that what's what was going to happen."

Although *The Jungle South of the Mountain* is far from being autobiographical, Westoll did draw on the internal conflict between rationalism and spiritual faith he's experienced in his own career.

"When I left science, I left because I believed more strongly in the larger truths that literature provides," he says.

"It's not that I don't believe the truths of science, I just didn't want to spend my life obsessing over data. I wanted to go in a different direction and use storytelling as a way of understanding the world around me."

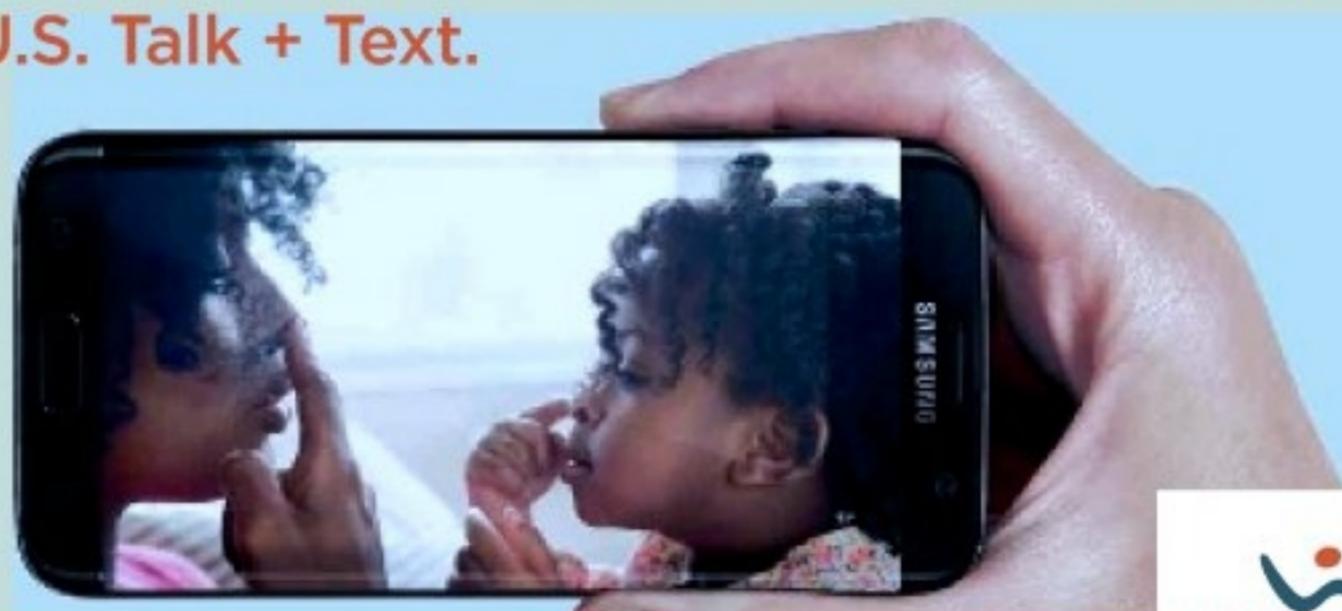
Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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# Is Shakespeare due for a shakeup?

## THEATRE

**Baffled by the Bard, thespians take a red pen to his words**

**Genna Buck**  
Metro Canada

Be honest: How much of this speech, from Act I of Shakespeare's dark comedy *All's Well That Ends Well*, do you understand?

O, will you eat no grapes, my royal fox?

Yes, but you will my noble grapes, an if

My royal fox could reach them: I have seen a medicine

That's able to breathe life into a stone,

Quicken a rock, and make you dance canary

With sprightly fire and motion; whose simple touch,

Is powerful to araise King Pepin, nay,

To give great Charlemain a pen in's hand,

And write to her a love-line.

If you said "almost nothing," you're not alone.

Though his reputation as the be-all and end-all of English playwrights has barely budged an inch in the four centuries since his death, "the vast majority" of Shakespeare's words soar over audiences' heads, said Holger Syme, a University of Toronto English professor and Shakespeare expert.

It's a bit of a dirty little secret among theatregoers: For some "really strange" reason, people seem reluctant to admit

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**Clockwise from top:** Nicky Guadagni (centre, long sleeves) as the countess, and Rachel Jones (far right) as the lewd clown Lavache in *All's Well That Ends Well* in Toronto's High Park; Frank Cox-O'Connell's hipster Hamlet confers with Rose Tuong in the role of Ophelia; a raucous scene from *All's Well That Ends Well*.

CYLLA VON TIEDEMANN/CONTRIBUTED

John MacWhorter, even modest attempts to translate the Bard into modern English are seen as "sacrilege" to many literary and theatre types.

That may be changing: Some envelope-pushing productions are willing to be called blasphemous by the purists.

Take the traditional summer Shakespeare in Toronto's High Park. In what Syme calls their most "radical" and "experimental" season in years, Canadian Stage is presenting, on alternate nights, a compact, 100-minute Hamlet (Benedict Cumberbatch's version clocks in at 271), and a wild, gender-bending rendition of *All's Well That Ends Well* where the word "slut" replaces "knav."

In the latter play, the clown Lavatch, recast as a sultry night-club singer, delivers explanatory monologues in modern English.

Audience member Chloe Wilson said she understood about 70 per cent of *All's Well*, though some puns and jokes



escaped her. "I really liked it," she said. "For the most part, just from the context of what's happening, I find I can follow it pretty well."

Her friend Doug Tynes copped to taking in only about 40 per cent. "It's like a different language," he said.

At the heart of the debate about how to make Shakespeare intelligible to people like Doug, Syme said, is the question of what kind of confusion is good, and what's just, well, confusing.

After all, he said, people didn't speak in verse in the 1600s. Shakespeare was dense and hard to understand then, too — just for a different reason. It's why the Bard often repeated the same statement two different ways.

"Bouncing back and forth between being lost and understanding is really quite central to how Shakespeare works ... except if you're not bouncing back," Syme said.

He has his students pore over the plays' full text and footnotes, but in performance it's "ridiculous" to refuse to tweak

words that make no sense to a modern audience, he said.

(In the passage above, for example, "quicken" doesn't mean "speed up." In Shakespeare's time, it meant "bring to life.")

It's an impossible burden to place on actors "to make sure people understand every word."

The words aren't where the magic comes from, explained Frank Cox-O'Connell, who stars as Hamlet in High Park.

"Plays are stories. They're not precious texts that we need to be deciphering word-by-word," he said. "We want to make the audience believe I'm really thinking this, and I'm really going through it in real time. That's the energy of a live performance."

Nicky Guadagni, who plays Polonius in Hamlet and the countess in *All's Well*, said audience confusion is painfully obvious in a bright outdoor park, miming a slack-jawed expression.

So, she explained, early in *All's Well's* run, lines like "To Paris!" and "to Rousillon!" were added to make it clear where the action was.

## TEST YOURSELF

It's hard for even the most literary theatregoer to follow a Shakespeare play. Some words, circa 1600, meant the exact opposite of how we understand them today. Take these lines from Hamlet:

"I'll make a ghost of he who lets me."

**Lets**, in this sense, actually means "prevents."

"Here's fine revolution, and we had the trick to see't."

**And**, here, means "if," not "in addition to."

HOLGER SYME/BIRGIT DUARTE



**I'm worried about Shakespeare. It risks becoming a sort of museum: You go because that's what you do as an educated person.**

Holger Syme, professor

Birgit Duarte, who directed Hamlet, took a similar approach: She remixed the script from its most "timeless," parts: "The family dynamics we all still recognize: generational conflicts, grieving a parent, the quarterlife crisis," she said.

She said it was totally unlike her experience as a director at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival: home of beautiful, expensive, epic plays that barely stray from the text or the period aesthetic.

Syme recently watched a subpar but faithful Macbeth, a play he's been teaching for 12 years.

"I was struggling to make sense of speeches I know quite well," Syme said. "I'm sure some people are so immersed in the language that they never trip up. But I find that hard to imagine."

He said the theatre world needs to confront the "persistent myth" that if you're human, you'll understand Shakespeare's transcendent words. Otherwise, he said, the Bard risks "becoming a sort of museum: You go because that's what you do as an educated person."

"That's not how theatre works."

"It's supposed to do something to you."

In Italy, the tradition of aperitivo goes beyond a cocktail — it's a prized social routine. The concept is based around an alcoholic drink to encourage one's appetite, but it's really a platform for conversation and company. Marisa Huff takes a closer look in her new book *Aperitivo*. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



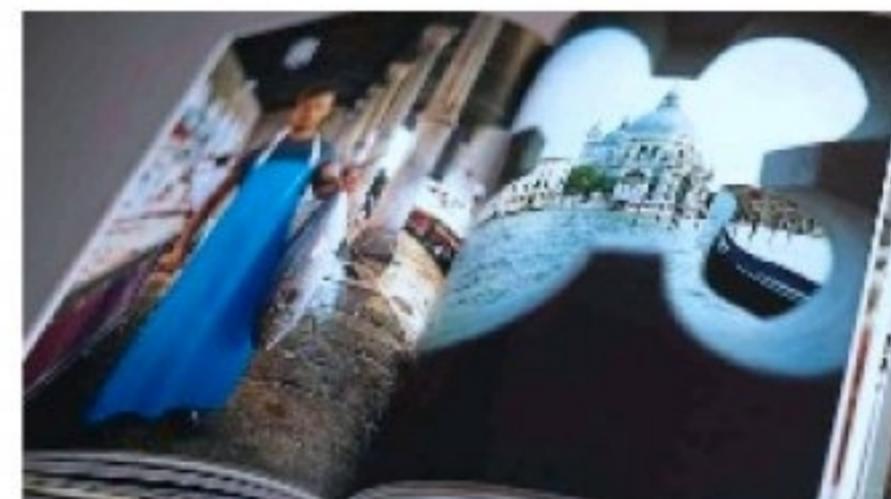
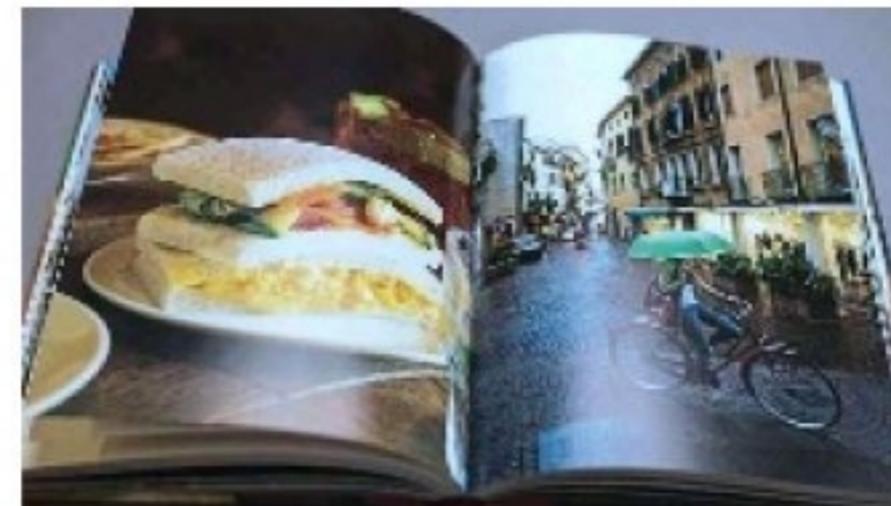
### Turin, where a movement was born

Turin was the birthplace of the modern Italian aperitivo after liquorist Antonio Benedetto Carpano debuted the fortified wine he called vermouth at his workshop in 1786. By the 1850s, most bars and restaurants in town employed a master drink maker.



### Dreams, with cheese please

Piedmont loves its cheese, with the small town of Bra hosting a four-day cheese festival every two years. The region's fresh raw-milk goat cheeses have an acidic flavour, so here they're served with pink peppercorns, olive oil and a dash of flaky sea salt.



### Tremendous tramezzini

The term "tramezzini" — soft, crustless sandwiches — was coined to replace "sandwich" when Mussolini outlawed the use of non-Italian words. Padua's Gran Caffé Diemme serves a shrimp tramezzini as well as a carbonara tramezzini, packed with hard-cooked eggs and grated cheese.

### For whom the Bellini tolls...

The Bellini — a swirl of sparkling wine and white peach puree — was made famous at Venice's Harry's Bar in the '30s. Now, many of Venice's bars insist on serving the drink only during the summer when white peaches are available.

### Keeping it all Rialto

No trip to Venice is complete without taking in the Rialto Market, a bustling seafood treasure trove that has been operating for seven centuries. If the seafood was snared locally, it'll be tagged "nostrano;" the same goes for seasonal veggies.

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# He bid goodbye to the 'boob tube' era

## INTERVIEW

## Hill Street Blues creator Bochco reflects on over 50 years in TV

For viewers who rejoice in TV's artistic upsurge, one virtuoso perhaps more than anyone can be credited for elevating the medium from its bygone "boob tube" status.

Steven Bochco flinches at the mention of his half-century writing and producing TV. Could it really be that long? But his list of credits documents his legacy.

Consider: the breakthrough hits L.A. Law and NYPD Blue, the pioneering half-hour dramedy Doogie Howser, M.D. and the groundbreaking legal drama *Murder One*, which, instead of a self-contained case every week, dared to delve into a complex single case throughout the season.

Yet for Bochco, the TV revolutionary, *Hill Street Blues* came first. And it pretty much changed everything.

In his self-published memoir *Truth Is a Total Defence: My Fifty Years in Television* (CreateSpace

Independent Publishing Platform; \$16.99), Bochco takes the reader through his prolific career, which he began at 22 as a story editor on a popular NBC drama, *The Name of the Game*, and continues today with his latest creation, *Murder in the First*, in its third season on TNT.

In his book, Bochco recalls his great collaborations and his battles royal with actors, studio heads and network execs. Along the way, he expounds on something even more important to him: How, at age 72, he's still alive.

"Everything is fine," he reports, and looks it, as he greets a reporter at his office in Santa Monica, California. He says he's coming up on two years since the bone-marrow transplant he underwent during his battle with leukemia.

"The thing I like most about the book was the juxtaposition of a career that had a pretty great arc to it with the fight for my life.

"Most of us live our lives being afraid of death, and when it was actually on my doorstep I was terrified," he says.

Bochco grew up in Manhattan, the son of a painter and a concert violinist. After a brief dalliance writing for the big screen, Bochco resolved to stick with television, despite what, then, was its second-class standing. Nowhere was the writer's vision more revered than at MTM Enterprises, a creative hotbed where he was invited to cook up a new kind of cop drama.

Teamed with Michael Kozoll ("I was never a one-man band," Bochco says of his career) he was game for such an opportunity, with one proviso: He and Kozoll would have creative control over the script.

The pilot script they wrote, and the series that resulted, redefined TV drama. From *The Sopranos* to *The Shield* from *Game of Thrones* to *Mad Men*, the fruits of TV's latter-day Golden Age stem from *Hill Street Blues*. It had a sprawling universe of en-

gaging yet flawed characters, a zippy pace. But what really set the show apart were the multiple narratives that interlaced each episode with those that came before and after.

Bochco recalls a fan telling him that *Hill Street Blues* was the first TV series with a memory.

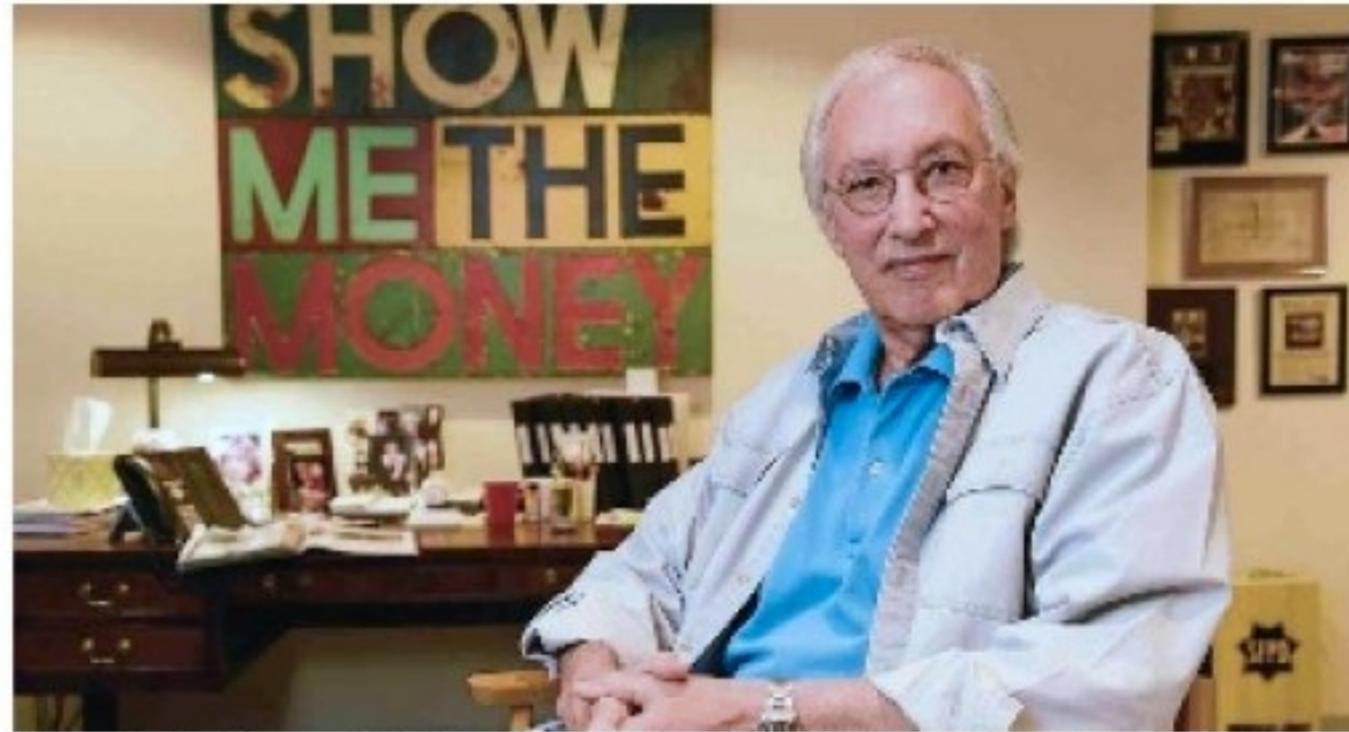
"That's what I always thought of myself doing in the context of TV: craft a show that over time

would have a memory," he says. "I sensed that very early in my career. It just took me another 10 or 12 years to get to the point where I earned the right to take a shot at it."

Premiering in January 1981, *Hill Street Blues* challenged the meagre audience that sampled. Then, on a wave of critical acclaim, the series began to click, while scoring a historic 27 Emmy nominations its first year.

During its seven-season run, it would win 26 Emmys and launch Bochco on a course that has led to dozens of series and 10 Emmys and four Peabody awards.

"I had a 20-plus-year run where I was pretty much the captain of my own boat," he says, "and I loved it. But TV is a business where the goal posts keep moving." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Steven Bochco's memoir *Truth Is a Total Defence: My Fifty Years in Television* tells how he changed TV series production. CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

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# Can they say that on network TV?

## INTERVIEW

**It's the after-party conversations that reveal most about friends in their 20s**

**Melita Kuburas**  
Metro | Canada

As the saying goes, "write what you know" — and if that's true then a TV series about being drunk and high at 4 a.m. is right in Ira Parker's wheelhouse, he jokes.

Parker is the creator of *Four in the Morning*, a comedy launching Friday at 9 p.m. on CBC about a group of friends in their 20s who, after a night of partying, discuss oral sex, abortions, failed job searches and relationships. Speaking really fast, they proclaim love and confess betrayal of one another, sometimes in the same breath (there are 15 pages of dialogue in just the opening scene of the pilot, which takes place in a diner).

If it sounds like the show may push the limits of network TV, it probably will. This ain't no *Little Mosque on the Prairie*.

When Parker, who has roots in Toronto but now lives in L.A., first learned CBC was interested in the show, he says he was terrified they would want to censor it. But a meeting with reps indicated the network wouldn't tone down it down to the point of *Pollyanna*.

"My first question was — 'Do I have to take out all the 'f—ks'? And they looked at me, and they were like, 'No, leave them in,'" Parker tells Metro. "So I pushed it a little bit more: I was like, 'I have an idea for an episode where the characters do a sh-t-ton of blow. Can I do that?' And they were like,



**Four in the Morning** stars Daniel Maslany as Bondurant, Lola Tash as Mitzi, Mazin Elsadig as William and Michelle Mylett as Jamie. The diner scenes were filmed in Toronto's Patrician Grill on King Street East. CONTRIBUTED



“

**Over the course of the season, we're really gonna put these relationships through the ringer**

Ira Parker, about backstabbing and betrayal in *Four in the Morning*

"Yeah, as long as it makes sense for the story, go ahead."

*Four in the Morning* is not a show about debauchery, however. It's about those rare moments when the booze starts to wear off that might reveal more tender, sweet and sad aspects of young adulthood.

"I wanted to jump in after the partying and recklessness," says Parker. "After you've been out all night, what is that walk home like? What is that hyper-emotional melodramatic evening like? When you say these things that you rarely have the competence or the courage to say during the more reasonable hours of the day."

For Daniel Maslany's character, a boisterous jazz musician named

Bondurant, that after-party gusto translates into having the nerve to tell his best friend William (Mazin Elsadig) that he's in love with his girlfriend, and expecting William to help him figure out what to do.

"I think it really establishes his unapologetic way of saying what he wants, what he feels, and how that matters," says Maslany, 27. "I think that's a big part of being in your 20s — figuring out, who am I socially? Who am I in my career? The show is about people making mistakes, and making an effort to find themselves."

While most of us would be slurring and stumbling while trying to fill our stomachs with something to soak up the alcohol, these characters sound

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Daniel Maslany on running lines with his famous sister**

Daniel Maslany's theatre and musical background came in useful in his portrayal of the exuberant character Bondurant. It also helped to run lines with his talented sister, Emmy-nominated Tatiana Maslany of *Orphan Black*.

"My fiancé's an actor too, so I'm surrounded by other actors that are very close to me in my life. It's important to have them on your side. Everybody was so supportive during that audition process, including my sister," he says.

"It's been really exciting to see the journey she's on. Not only is she inspiring to me, but to actors everywhere because she's doing a role (in which) she's showing her diversity in the kinds of characters she can play."

"So it's always been inspiring to watch her work, even before *Orphan Black*."

intelligent and witty.

If that's unrealistic it's because they're unreliable narrators, made even more clear by moments of magical realism incorporated into the storyline. For instance, in the second episode the group parties with a couple of "daykids," which are people who are born with a condition that ages them an entire lifetime overnight.

For Maslany, the fantastical elements show what it can feel like to be in those strange moments at 4 a.m., where anything feels possible.

"You're in this pocket of time that's not when most people are awake. It doesn't feel restricted by the same social parameters or things you should be doing," Maslany says.



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LAUREL TOWNHOMES

## Family-friendly in south YEG

### Project overview

Laurel Crossing is a family-oriented community in the city's south, with a variety of housing options representing several builders. Carrington Communities townhomes fit right in, offering affordability with plenty of amenities, and transport links to the rest of the city. And these townhomes have space — perfect for a home office or family.

### Housing amenities

Laurel Townhomes feature oversized balconies and attached rear garages, plus large, energy-efficient windows. Inside, there's stacking laundry and laminate flooring that runs through the kitchen, living and dining areas. Modern kitchens also offer a black appliance package and full height subway-style backsplash.

### Location and transit

South Edmonton offers easy access to the Anthony Henday ring road, taking commuters to work or school in the downtown core. Laurel Townhomes (nestled between 33A and 34 St. at 16A Ave.) also offers residents quick links to the airport and nearby South Edmonton Common, where transit and services abound.

### In the neighbourhood

Laurel Crossing boasts parks, green spaces and walking trails. For those seeking entertainment and shopping, the Anthony Henday offers quick access to South Edmonton Common and its bounty of amenities — dining options, movie theatre and big box retailers among them.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

### NEED TO KNOW

**What:** Laurel Townhomes  
**Builder/developer:** Carrington Group

**Location:** Laurel Crossing in South Edmonton

**Building:** 34 townhomes in five buildings

**Price:** \$299,900 to \$332,900

**Size:** 1,416 square feet to

1,459 square feet.

**Model:** Three bedroom/2.5 bathroom units with attached garage

**Status/occupancy:** Now selling — 11 units sold

**Sales Centre:** 1632 33A St.

**Phone:** 780-974-5362

**Website:** Carrington.ca

### SMALL SPACES

## New Ikea catalogue embraces our modern lifestyle

**Zoe McKnight**  
Torstar News Service

For many, braving the crowds at Ikea for off-to-college or back-to-school shopping is an end-of-summer routine.

That makes August one of the Swedish home retailer's busiest months. It also marks the launch of the annual, much-anticipated catalogue.

This year's shopping guide reflects the findings of a recent survey conducted by Ikea:

people are living in spaces and under arrangements very different from four decades ago when Ikea launched in Canada.

"We're noticing a lot of open concept rooms in a home. It's often a shared space, with multiple generations doing different things," Frechette says.

Many of the catalogue's images reflect loft-style and condo living, with exposed bricks and pipes, bikes in the hallway and multiple roommates under one roof.

Families and friends eat at the coffee table or over the sink, kids play on bunk beds in the living room.

While the full Ikea kitchen is still a dream for many home-

owners, this year designers have come up with a kitchen that's portable for a more transient generation of renters with a "thin wallet and a small space." The guy in the photo has a man-bun, in case the millennial message wasn't clear.

Ikea spokeswoman Lucy Frechette said designers actually visited families in their homes for days at a time to observe routines and find out where frustrations lie — is it storage, counter space, privacy? — and then built products to make improvements.



Shared spaces are central to the new Ikea catalogue. SUPPLIED

# Vintage labels add touch of cozy

DIY

## If you can use a printer you can make these

A can of spray paint and some colourful vintage labels turn food tins bound for the bin into playful centerpieces perfect for your next outdoor party. Inspired by the vintage tins found at antique markets, we turned cans of tomatoes into vibrant upcycled vases. Just add fresh flowers, a potted plant or herbs to create eclectic containers that look great on a summer or early autumn table.

**MOD PODGE**  
Mod Podge is a staple material for all kinds of crafters. It's an acid-free kind of glue that comes in a variety of finishes (even glow-in-the-dark).

### Step 1: Gather Supplies

You'll need:

- Tin cans
- Computer & printer
- White printer paper
- Scissors
- Mod Podge
- Print outs of vintage labels (we'll show you where to get those in Step 2)
- Spray paint

### Step 2: Source, print and cut out vintage can labels

Printable vintage can labels can be found online.

The Boston Public Library has shared their collection of vin-

tage tin label art, which can be downloaded and printed.

We also found some great labels on the farmhouse inspired blog Knick of Time. Measure the cans and, if necessary, re-size the labels to fit before printing. Just use your computer to adjust the size of the labels and print them out at home.

### Step 3: Prep

Remove the original paper labels from the tins. Wash the tins, removing any adhesive. Let dry.

### Step 4: Paint

In a well-ventilated area, ideally outdoors, prepare an area to spray paint the cans. Protect surfaces from paint with newspaper or plastic sheets.

Follow paint manufacturer directions for applying spray paint and drying times. It's best to apply multiple light coats of paint rather than one thick coat.

### Step 5: Attach the labels

Apply a thin layer of Mod Podge to the back of the label and press the label into place, on the can. Let the Mod Podge dry for approximately 15 minutes. Apply a top coat of Mod Podge to the label. This seals and protects the labels. If you plan on leaving the cans outdoors for any length of time, consider using a Mod Podge product suitable for outdoor conditions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Spray paint and some vintage-looking labels can turn any food tin into a vibrant upcycled vase. DEBRA NORTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

3



RETAIL

## Not feeling crafty? Buy it

We've dug up some ready to use can-inspired options for you.

**1 Indigo** The look of a tin can modeled in terracotta; just add a pot of fresh herbs.

Medium Can Vase — Green (other colours and sizes available) \$5.00 CDN (sale price), eligible for free shipping

**2 Vintage Lizy** Custom order these vintage inspired tin cans, available in a variety of colours and styles.

Vintage Can \$6.00 CDN / \$3.12 shipping Ready to ship in 2 to 3 weeks.

**3 Anthropologie** An industrial looking zinc pot with the perfect patina of a weathered can.

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Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal say they plan to play doubles together when the Laver Cup debuts next year

# Olympians back on the grind at Canadian Open

GOLF

## National women's championship follows Games

It's back to the real world for Brooke Henderson, Lydia Ko and a handful of other Olympians who have left Rio de Janeiro behind and are preparing for the Canadian Open.

Henderson, the 18-year-old from Smiths Falls, Ont., finished in a tie for seventh place at the Summer Olympics.

Her face is everywhere at Priddis Greens Golf and Country Club near Calgary where the Canadian Open, the national women's golf championship, runs Thursday through Sunday. She's hoping for a better finish back home in Canada than she achieved at the Olympics, lamenting the two or three shots that cost her a medal.

But coming from Rio to Priddis, Alta., isn't a big deal.

"Rio was kind of just a sixth major on the LPGA Tour," said Henderson on Wednesday. "Of course there was lots of other things going on — possible

distractions and it was like the world's biggest stage for sport.

"It was cool, but the end of the day it was just four rounds of golf, regular stroke play individual that we do every single week, playing against the same players we play against every week so nothing that way was any different. Coming here's just another week on tour."

Ko finished with a silver medal for South Korea at the Olympics and is a three-time winner of the Canadian Open.

"I can remember back to a week ago when I was flying into Rio and I was excited to prepare and everything and it was like there — and it was over," Ko said.

"It's definitely a quick turnaround but you know this is one of our best tournaments on our tour schedule so even the girls that were in Rio I think we're all excited to be here."

Ko, who is the reigning Canadian Open champion, says there are a few things she and her fellow Olympians are having to adapt to.

"Last week the course was a little bit like sand belt with a little bit of British flair. This is a bit more traditional ... it's



Lydia Ko hits a tee shot during the pro-am at the Canadian Open tournament in Priddis, Alta., Wednesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

firm and fast. Last week we were wearing shorts — this week we're wearing sweatshirts," she said.

"It's different but I think we're all getting used to it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**We're going to have 30 countries in the field at the CP Open ... so we're going to put on another version of the Olympics this week.** LPGA commissioner Michael Whan



Andre De Grasse was among the Olympians who received a warm welcome home at Pearson International Airport in Toronto on Wednesday. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## OLYMPICS

# More returning athletes feted

For the second day in a row, Canadian Olympians returned home from the Rio Olympics to excited crowds of loved ones and fans.

Runner Andre De Grasse of Markham, Ont., who won a silver and two bronze medals, was the first to walk through the arrival gate at Toronto's Pearson International Airport.

"It's incredible out here (with) this crowd. I'm loving it," said De Grasse. "I'm honoured. It feels so good to be a part of this country."

His mother, Beverley, joined him almost immediately.

"I'm just looking to go home and take some time off," De Grasse said, adding that he was looking forward to his mom's home cooking.

De Grasse was the first Canadian to win three sprint medals at a single Games.

Food and rest were also top of mind for Derek Drouin of Corunna, Ont., who won a gold medal in the

high jump.

"I'm not really looking forward to cooking. Probably just order some pizza. It's my time off so I'm not really watching what I eat too much," he said.

The 26-year-old added he was hoping to sleep "probably for the next day."

Wednesday's arriving athletes followed two plane loads of Olympians who arrived home to a hero's welcome early Tuesday, including star swimmer Penny Oleksiak. The Toronto teenager won four medals at the Rio Games, including Canada's first gold.

**Kaepernick expected to make pre-season debut**

Colin Kaepernick is on track to make his first appearance of the pre-season for San Francisco on Friday night against Green Bay after his tired shoulder made it through a full week of practice.

Coach Chip Kelly said Kaepernick looked good in practice this week and is expected to play barring any setbacks before the game. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Derek Drouin  
GETTY IMAGES

## IN BRIEF

### Coyotes hire female coach

The Arizona Coyotes have hired Dawn Braid as skating coach and say she is believed to be the first full-time female coach in NHL history.

Braid has a long association with the NHL. She worked part-time for the Coyotes last year and has served as a skating consultant with the Toronto Maple Leafs, Anaheim Ducks, Buffalo Sabres and Calgary Flames.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### U.S. swimmer comes clean about gas-station story

U.S. swimmer James Feigen apologized for the "serious distraction" he and three teammates caused at a gas station during the Rio Olympics, saying he omitted facts in his statement to police.

While Feigen admitted "we urinated behind the building and that Ryan Lochte pulled a poster off the wall," he maintains the group didn't force their way into a bathroom and a gun was pointed at them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Pujols tags Blue Jays for milestone home run

Albert Pujols moved into sole possession of 10th all-time on the home run list Wednesday night as the Los Angeles Angels routed the Blue Jays 8-2 in Toronto.

Pujols' 584th career home run in the first inning moved him past Mark McGwire on the list. He finished the night with four hits and three runs-batted.

Matt Shoemaker pitched six innings of shutout ball for L.A., allowing just three hits while striking out two.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Raffi Torres works out during the Biosteel camp in Toronto on Wednesday.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Torres looking for one last shot

NHL

## Free agent has reputation of a dirty player

Raffi Torres laughed as he said it, his gap-toothed smile flashing the résumé of a veteran NHL tough guy. He realized the tune he was singing is a familiar one.

"It's like a broken record with me," the 34-year-old forward said on Wednesday afternoon at the Biosteel camp.

"I've said I'm going to change my game, this and that, but I still feel like I can," he said, laughing once more when he heard himself. "I'm saying it again. I just need someone to take a chance."

Torres knows his reputation precedes him and that, after picking up a 41-game suspension in the pre-season last year

for his blindside hit of Anaheim Ducks forward Jakob Silfverberg, it might force the book shut on his 16-year, 635-game career.

**I've gotten where I am today without a backup plan. I've always kind of thrown all my eggs in one basket.**

Raffi Torres

Those six or so strides he took across the ice to put his shoulder into Silfverberg's head last fall aren't the way he wants his career to end, but he knows that play — which led to the fifth headshot-related suspension of his career — might speak louder

to any NHL general manager than any plea he can make that he's changed his ways.

"When I get in trouble is when I let my emotions take over, and kind of run around with my head cut off," the former Oiler said. "I know when I'm healthy and playing a simple game up and down the wall and pushing hits and trying to make plays, then I can contribute. I want to show that I can; it's been difficult."

After serving his suspension, Torres was assigned by the San Jose Sharks to their AHL affiliate, the San Jose Barracuda. He was dealt to the Leafs on Feb. 22 and he ended his season on Feb. 28 to fully recover from a knee injury. He became a free agent this summer. Now healthy, he said he wants to give it everything he can to see if he can get one more NHL chance.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## IN BRIEF

### Sweden inserts Lindholm in place of Kronwall

Sweden has added Hampus Lindholm to its World Cup roster and removed two-time Olympian Niklas Kronwall.

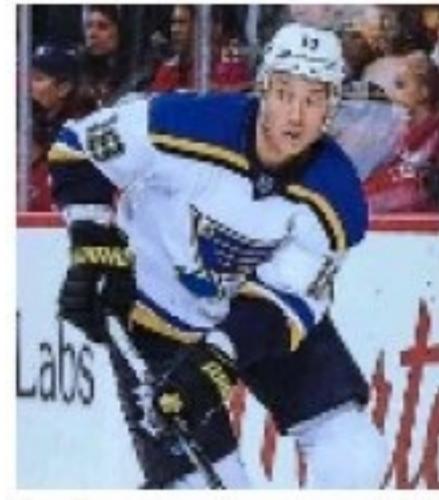
Kronwall was limited to 64 games with Detroit last season because of a knee injury. The 35-year-old defenceman has 365 points over 12 NHL seasons.

Lindholm, a 22-year-old defenceman, has 23 goals and 92 points over three NHL seasons with Anaheim.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

## Bouwmeester to take Keith's place



Jay Bouwmeester GETTY IMAGES

Canada selected Jay Bouwmeester to replace Duncan Keith on its roster for the World Cup of Hockey.

Keith is still rehabbing a right knee injury he suffered last season, the Chicago Blackhawks said. The two-time Norris Trophy winner as the NHL's top defenceman had surgery to repair a torn meniscus in October.

Bouwmeester rejoins Canada after winning gold at the 2014 Olympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## RECIPE White Fish and Pea Chowder



**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

Make this ultra creamy version of a chowder. If you sub the season's corn for peas, brilliant!

### Ready in 30 minutes

Prep time: 15 minutes  
Cook time: 15 minutes  
Serves 4

### Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup diced pancetta
- 2 1/2 cups mini white potatoes, quartered
- 1 cup stock
- 3 cups milk
- 1 cup peas
- 250 g skinless, boneless white fish, chopped into chunks
- 2 Tbsp fresh chopped dill
- salt and pepper

### Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, tip in the onions and pancetta and cook until onions are softened and pancetta is browned, about 5 minutes. Add the potatoes and cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Pour in stock, cover and simmer for 12-15 mins or until the potatoes are tender. With a slotted spoon, remove half the potatoes from the stock and set aside.

2. Transfer the remaining potatoes, stock into a blender or food processor, add the milk and whizz until smooth. Pour back into the pan, add the peas, fish and reserved potatoes. Cover and gently heat for 3-4 mins until the fish is just cooked through – don't boil. Stir in dill then season to taste.

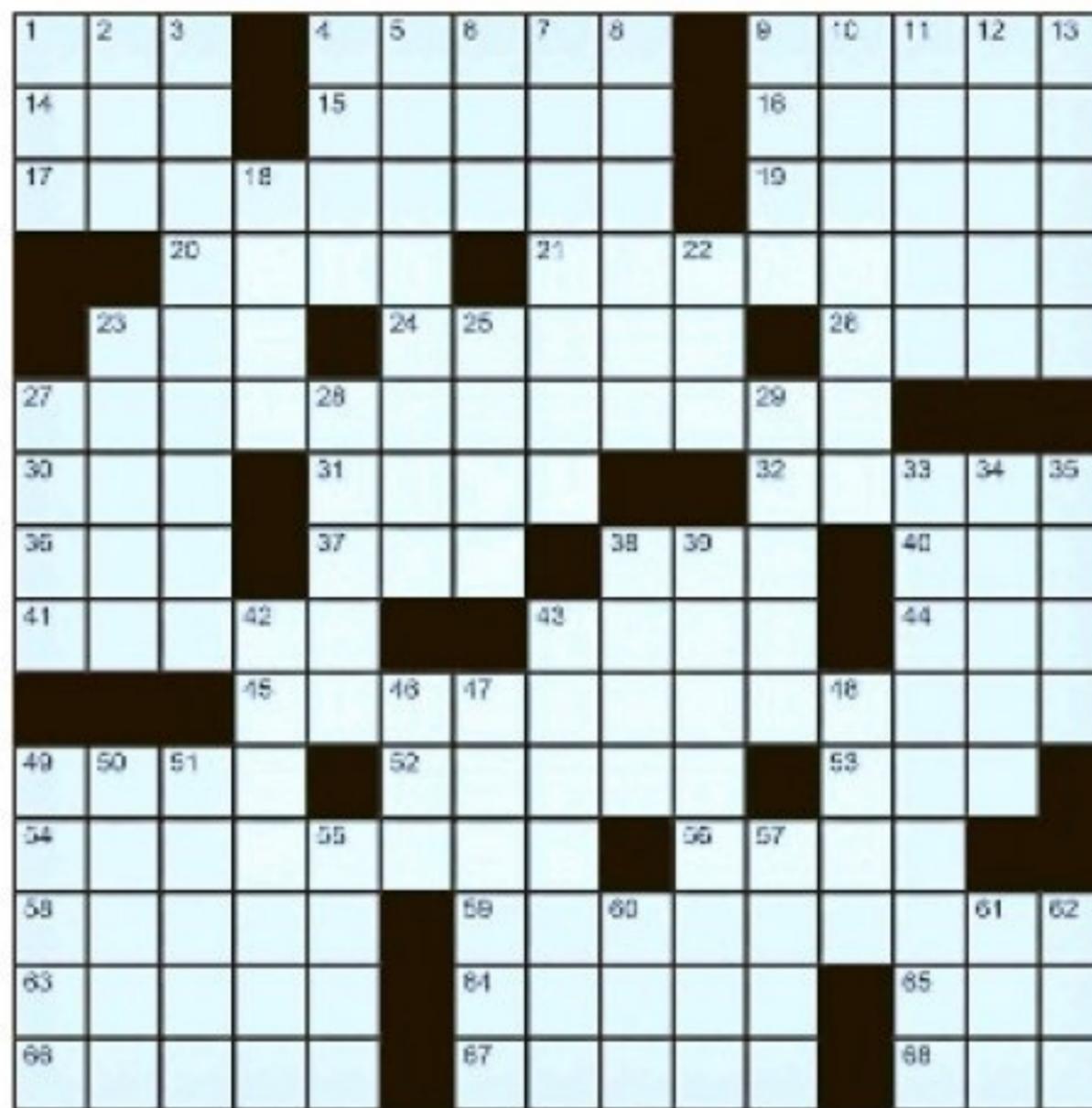
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

### ACROSS

1. Toronto mayor Mr. Lastman from 1998 to 2003
4. "Is that such an idea?"
9. Michael    Coal Miner's Daughter (1980) director
14. Latin roe
15. 'Mono' add-on (Auditioner's delivery)
16. Canadian TV channel
17. August 25th to August 28th, 2016... Nautique WWA    World Championships, at the Canadian National Exhibition, in Toronto
19. Like fish fillet
20. "Blimey!"
21. Nose ornamentation
23. You-know-
24. "Coffee,    milk?"
26. Mr. Donovan
27. Canadian donuts chain established in 1963: 2 wds.
30. YYZ post-ing, wee-ly
31. River inlets
32. Paris:    Triomphe
36. Kate's leading man in 1997
37. Pre-lunch hrs.
38. Dubliner's dance
40. Vienna's land, IOC-style
41. k.d.s kin
43. Parched
44. Commerce deg.
45. Capital + Terr.: 2 wds.
49. Like Fred-dy's tree
52. 70s idol Mr. Cassidy
53. Mr. Levin
54. Paul Anka, in the 1950s: 2 wds.
56. Bash
58. Job filler
59. Kate of Charlie's Angels ...when addressed formally: 2 wds.
63. Upper crust
64.   -surface missile
65. Tarzan and    Mate (1934)
66. Latticework strips
67. Sprinkle
68. Archery tree



### DOWN

1.    the lawn
2. Ms. Gabor
3. Body of water on which Samia sits: 2 wds.
4. Jessica
5. Furniture fea-ture: 2 wds.
6. Lettered gro-
7. Exceed
8. Ren's insult to Stimp, "You   !"
9. Shortened word
10.    & Gamble
11. Alias for Patty Hearst in the SLA
12. Happening
13. Big name in

- trucks
- 18. Dr.    Spengler, Ghostbusters (1984) role
- 22. 'Brew' suffix
- 23. Accessorized the suit,    tie
- 25. Young hawk
- 27. Ring up
- 28. Garbage
- 29. Tavern beverage
- 33. Unappreciative of paparazzi
- 34. Nickname of Dick Cheney's President
- 35. Coup d'
- 38. Chariot-driving biblical King of Israel
- 39. Buckingham Palace lays behind this type of entrance: 2 wds.
- 42. Ms. Paltrow
- 43. Closes the container: 2 wds.
- 46. Q.    ' the fourth letter?" A. "Indeed."
- 47. St.    Ontario
- 48. Posh fabric
- 49. Barrymore or Merman
- 50. Priestess in Georges Bizet opera The Pearl Fishers
- 51. Warrant
- 55. Wraths
- 57. "Don't have    man!" - Bart Simpson
- 60. Mr. Tolkien
- 61. Goose: French
- 62. Sydney is the cap. of what Australian state?

## \*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
Steer clear of controversial issues like politics, religion and racial matters, because there is too much confusion today. Even when it comes to travel plans, you might be indecisive.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
This is a poor day to make important decisions about inheritances and shared property. An element of confusion, even deceit, is present. Plus you might not be strong enough to defend your own best interests.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
It's hard to stand up to others today, even to defend yourself. Fortunately, other people may have the same difficulty! It's definitely a wishy-washy day.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Your efforts to get things done at work will be challenged by confusion regarding travel, foreign countries and the timing of when things should be done. Good luck!

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Be careful with social plans or plans regarding vacations. Leave yourself a loophole in case you have to change things. Similarly, choose less-ambitious projects when dealing with children.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
Postpone important decisions about family or real estate situations, because there is too much confusion today. People are indecisive. It's hard to know what to do.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Today is one of those days where you're not sure when or how to act. That's why it might be best to just do nothing. Easy does it.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Be careful with financial arrangements and how you handle your money today. Assume nothing. Take nothing for granted. Guard your possessions.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
You might feel tired today. This is not a good day to tax yourself or to push your energy too far. Just take care of smaller matters.

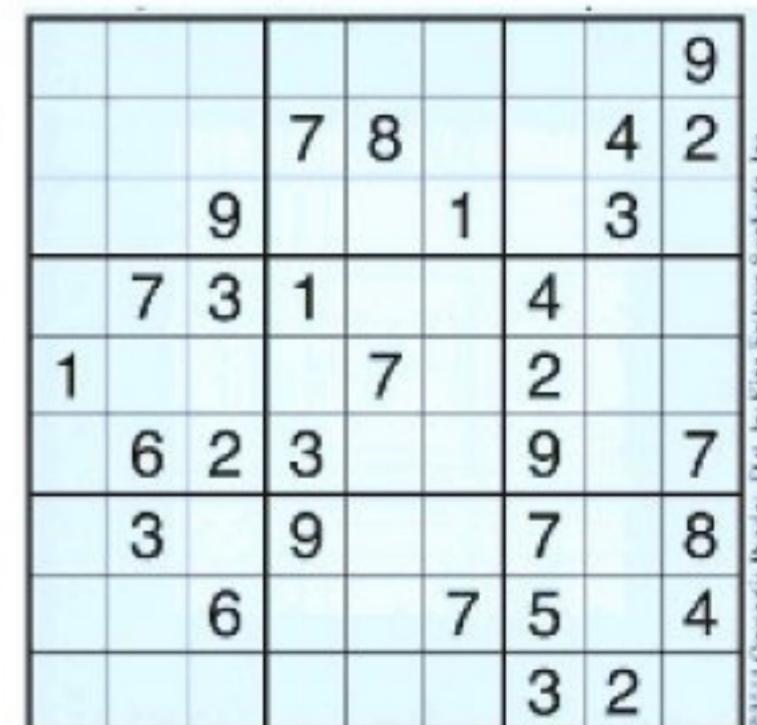
**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Secrets might come out today. Or perhaps you are involved with secret activities. Be careful and commit to nothing, to be on the safe side.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Your efforts to lead others today might be impeded by something. Don't expect too much from anyone (including yourself). Go slowly.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Check things out, especially instructions from bosses and authority figures, before you act today. It's all too easy to go off in a wrong direction. If you are smart, you can save wasted effort and possible mistakes.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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**metro**

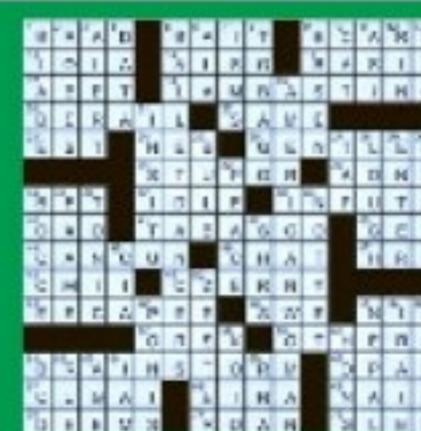
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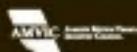
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